AMERICAN MUSEUM NOVITATES

Published by

Number 1088 THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY October 24, 1940

New York City

NOTES ON SOME AFRICAN STRATIOMYIDAE (DIPTERA) BELONGING TO GENERA RELATED TO *ODONTOMYIA*

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An examination of the types of the species of *Odontomyia* described by Doctor Curran from the American Museum Congo Expedition material (Amer. Mus. Novit., No. 324, 1928) indicates that none of these species belong to *Odontomyia* in the true sense, although at the time they were described, no other generic names were available. In order that their taxonomy may not become confused, it becomes necessary to transfer one of these to another genus, and to propose a new generic name for three others. In the present paper is also described a new species in the related genus *Hoplodonta*, the holotype and allotype of which are deposited in The American Museum of Natural History. It is interesting to observe that most of the species treated in this paper form connecting links between the faunas of India and of tropical West Africa.

ODONTOMYIA MACQUART

Odontomyia impressa Curran

CURRAN, 1928, Amer. Mus. Novit., No. 324, p. 1.

Eulalia impressa LINDNER, 1938, Bul. Mus. Roy. d'Hist. Nat. Belg., XIV, No. 54, p. 19.

The generic reference is unsatisfactory. The short first antennal segment links this species with *Odontomyia*, but the five-annulated flagellum and the trapezoidal scutellum with its strong, broadly separated spines are characteristic of *Stratiomys*. Until further relationships have been determined, it is best to leave the generic disposition of the species as it is, with the knowledge that it must eventually be changed.

NYASSA LINDNER

LINDNER, 1935, Deut. Ent. Zeit. (1934), p. 308.

The name *Nyassa* was proposed by Lindner for a new species, *N. andreniformis*, from East Africa. The outstanding characters are the short, curved hairs on the eyes, the stout, upturned scutellar spines, and the antennal structure, the flagellum being long, slender, and six-segmented, without a style.

Nyassa deceptor Curran

Odontomyia deceptor CURRAN, 1928, Amer. Mus. Novit., No. 324, p. 4.

The generic characters of *Nyassa* hold for this species; however, the antennae become suddenly acute apically, rather than blunt. This species is readily distinguished from the blackish *N. andreniformis* by its reddish-yellow coloration and by the dense reddish pile of the dorsum (black and gray in *andreniformis*).

AFRODONTOMYIA, NEW GENUS

A genus showing certain characters of both *Stratiomys* and *Odontomyia*. Antennae eight-segmented; first and second subequal, the others closely fused into a flagellum, of which the two terminal segments form a well-defined style. Front of female sloping forward; on its upper half, two prominent depressions, one on each side of the center; these may be thickly punctured. Face produced into a rounded prominence. Labella slender and rigid. Scutellum trapezoidal, the spines strong, set at the outer angles. Venation strong; the branches of the media, three in number, strong and distinct almost to the wing margin; *r–m* and *m–cu* present. Abdomen somewhat inflated.

GENOTYPE.—*Odontomyia seminuda* Curran.

Four species belonging to this genus are known to me. They may be separated by the following key.

1.—Abdomen entirely reddish.....2.
Abdomen conspicuously marked with black .....3.

2.—Dorsum of thorax and venter practically without erect pile.....*seminuda* Curran.

Dorsum of thorax with abundant, though short, erect black pile; venter with abundant golden yellow semi-erect pile, especially on the middle of the first three segments..... *gracilis* Curran.

3.—Base of abdomen (i.e., at least the first segment) yellowish green; the apex without bright reddish pile.... *protrudens* Curran.

Base of abdomen black, the apex reddish, with bright reddish pile..... *rufoabdominalis* Brunetti.

Afrodontomyia seminuda Curran

Odontomyia seminuda CURRAN, 1928, Amer. Mus. Novit., No. 324, p. 2.

Type series from Stanleyville, Belgian Congo.

Afrondontomyia gracilis Curran

Odontomyia gracilis CURRAN, 1928, Amer. Mus. Novit., No. 324, p. 3.

Type series from Stanleyville, Belgian Congo.

Afrodontomyia protrudens Curran

Odontomyia protrudens CURRAN, 1928, Amer. Mus. Novit., No. 324, p. 3.

Type series from Stanleyville, Belgian Congo.

Afrodontomyia rufoabdominalis Brunetti

Odontomyia rufoabdominalis BRUNETTI, 1913, Rec. Ind. Mus., IX, p. 265; 1920, Fauna British India, Dipt., I, p. 64; 1923, Rec. Ind. Mus., XXV, p. 119.

From Darjiling and Sikkim, India. I have seen a specimen from Darjiling, in the collection of the Deutsches Entomologisches Institut. This species is clearly congeneric with the three from Africa.

HOPLODONTA RONDANI

Hoplodonta stricticella, new species

FEMALE.—Head yellow or greenish yellow, except that the area around the base of the antennae and extending onto the facial prominence may be vaguely brownish, and that there may be a pair of poorly defined brownish spots on the lower part of the face. Vertex, front and face of approximately equal width throughout, that is, parallel-sided; front rather roughened and clothed with dense, coppery tomentum; a bare pale green callosity on each side, adjoining the eye, just below the middle and another, similarly placed, opposite the base of each antenna. Face and cheeks with more scattered coppery tomentum; post-ocular orbits above with tomentum similar to that of the front. Face in lateral profile comparatively short, the prominence rather blunt. Antennae structurally as in *H. viridula;* first and second segments yellow, the remaining black. Thorax entirely black, densely tomentose, the tomentum coppery dorsally, becoming somewhat lighter toward the pectus, where it is pale yellow. Scutellum black, with dense coppery tomentum; spines wholly pale yellow, two-thirds as long as the scutellum. Legs yellow; the middle and hind coxae and the front and middle femora on the apical half below may be more or less blackish or brownish; tarsi usually darkened beyond the base of the second segment. Wing venation weak; the discal cell very small or more commonly the veins bounding it have contracted so greatly as to eliminate the cell completely; posterior veins discernible only with difficulty; anterior veins fairly heavy, yellow. Abdomen entirely green. Length, 5.5–6.5 mm.

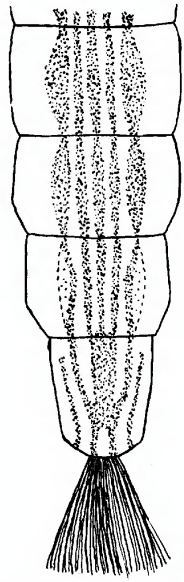

Fig. 1. *Hoplodonta stricticella,* new species. Terminal four segments, dorsal view, of empty pupa case.

MALE.—Head black, at most somewhat brownish on the facial prominence and oral margin. Tomentum sparse, more pile-like, especially below. Antennae may be wholly black. Thoracic tomentum paler and sparser, the black ground color showing through. Otherwise, except sexually, as in the female.

TYPES.—Holotype, female, Ibadan, Nigeria, Feb. 26, 1929 (C. B. Philip); reared from water lettuce. Allotype, female, same data. Paratypes, six females, three males, same data. Paratypes in the collections of Dr. Philip and of the author.

Related to *H. rubrithorax* Macquart, but

in that species the head is predominantly black in both sexes and lacks the coppery tomentum; this tomentum is more limited in area on the thorax, since it becomes whitish on the pleura; and the scutellar spines are much shorter. Macquart's species was described as *Odontomyia rubrithorax*, from India, but Lindner (Bul. Mus. Roy. d'Hist. Nat. Belg., XIV, No. 54, p. 24, 1938) has recorded it from the Belgian Congo.

An empty pupa case pinned in the same series as the types, but without an adult specimen on the same pin, is evidently of this species. It is of the same general type as *Odontomyia*. The last segment (11th) is short, being but slightly longer than the breadth at the base (ratio, 31:27); the tenth segment bears a pair of rather small, curved ventral hooks; the ninth segment is without such hooks. The head is missing. In color, it is chamois-leather yellow, with fine longitudinal brownish stripes; these stripes become evanescent before the fourth segment and fuse more or less on the eleventh; the lateral stripes expand into series of connected fusiform spots from segments five to nine, inclusive, and there is an indication of this expansion on the the tenth. The venter is unmarked.